Appl. No. Unassigned Amdt. dated January 15, 2004 Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 83-85 are pending. Claims 1-82 are canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1-82 and additional of claims 83-85, the inventorship has changed to William A. McMillan and Farzad Pourahmadi.

In the parent application no. 09/584,327, a 37 CFR § 1.607 Request to Provoke Interference with Patent was filed on August 8, 2001 against U.S. Patent No. 6,110,084. Applicants respectfully maintain the Request on the grounds set forth therein, and request that an interference be declared.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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